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The examiner has not indicated the amendment filed 1/22/04 was (or has been) entered, but it is Counsel's understanding that it is and was entered at or about the time of its filing. Appended to this paper (6 pages) is a COPY (so marked) made from Counsel's file folder of the amendments to claims 1--20 with a mailing date of 22 January 2004. That Preliminary Amendment was filed with this National Application by Express Mail.

Assuming Counsel's understanding is correct, it would seem improper and misleading to insert and underline those amendments again as part of a "current" amendment. Therefore, will the Examiner please review this situation and the official USPTO file before returning Counsel's telephone call

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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

New National Application of

Inventor : GEPFREY, Dale A., et al
Serial No. : N/A [National based on Intl. Appl. Ser. No. PCT/US02/233360
Filed : 21 January 2004
Title : WATER-TIGHT WINDOWS WITH PREFORMED CORNERS
Art Unit : N/A
Examiner : N/A
Docket No. : GII 001 P2 US

Mail Stop : Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
ARLINGTON VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Please enter this Preliminary amendment upon filing of this National application based on International Appl. Ser. No. PCT/US02/233360.

In the specification, page 7, after the period in line 11, Insert as follows:

—As shown in Figs. 1-8A, the splines are of multi-faceted design and conform to the inner surfaces of the lineal extrusions so as to present a plurality of closely meeting surfaces which, when joined, form a rigid connection and a water-tight seal.—

In the claims, enter the amended claims 1--20, replacing original claims 1--20.

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1. (Amended US National filing) A window construction comprising
an exterior frame including at least four integrally formed frame corners and at
least four extruded lineal rails joined between said frame corners to define the exterior
shape of the frame outer edges and the shape of the edges of an interior opening
surrounded by the frame, the lineal rails providing the header, sill, and jambs of the
frame;

the joints of said formed corners and rails having water-tight rigid joint sections
which present a smooth exterior at least on the exteriorly visible parts of the joints,

said corners and rails also having integral exterior frame flanges extending
outward thereof for attachment of the assembled window into a window aperture,

said corners and rails having at least one frame channel extending about the
interior opening to receive and support a window pane, and

said rails and corners being formed from essentially the same material.

2. (amended US National filing) A window construction as defined in claim 1, wherein
said joint sections have closely interfitting spline sections which form the rigid water-tight
joint.

3. (amended US National filing) A window construction as defined in claims 1 or 2,
wherein a sealant is added to the joints joint sections as they are assembled to form a
weather water-tight joint.

4. (amended US National filing) A window construction as defined in claims 2 or 3,
wherein said joint sections comprise male spline fittings of predetermined irregular
external cross-section on said frame corners and said lineal extrusion pieces having
essentially matching internal cross-section to receive said male splines of said formed
frame corners.

5. (amended US National filing) A window construction as defined in claim 1, wherein
said joint sections have compatible mating profiles that are joined by welding to form a
water-tight joint.

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6. (amended US National filing) A window construction as defined in claim 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5, wherein there are at least said frame one channel which receives the edges of a sash construction,

said sash construction including at least one set of four sash extrusion lineal pieces and at least four integral formed sash corners which are joined to define at least one sash frame dimensioned to fit within said frame channel,

said sash extrusion lineal pieces and formed sash corners defining the exterior shape of the sash frame outer edges to conform to the channels, and also defining the shape of the edges of an interior opening surrounded by the frame, the lineal said extrusion lineal pieces providing the header, sill, and jambs of the sash frame;

said sash extrusion lineal pieces and corners forming a sash channel to receive a window pane within the sash frame,

at least one of said sash frames being movable along its channel such that the jambs of the two sashes overlap and close the interior opening of the exterior frame, and to positions along its channel wherein the window is partially opened.

7. (amended US National filing) The window construction defined in claim 6, wherein both sashes are movable.

8. (amended US National filing) A window construction as defined in claim 6, wherein said sash lineal extrusion pieces and integral formed corners are produced from compatible materials as the exterior window frame.

9. (amended US National filing) A window construction as defined in claims 6 and 7, wherein the sashes include sash joint sections having closely interfitting spline sections which form the water-tight joint.

10. (amended US National filing) A window construction as defined in claim 9, wherein said sash joint sections comprise male spline fittings of predetermined irregular cross-section on said integral formed sash corners and said sash lineal rails having essentially matching internal cross-section to receive said male splines of said integral formed sash corners.

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11. (amended US National filing) A window construction as defined in ~~any one of~~ claims 4-10 5, wherein the lineal pieces are extruded of a synthetic material and the integrally formed corners are molded of compatible synthetic materials.

12. (amended US National filing) A window construction as defined in ~~any one of~~ claims 4-11 5, wherein there are multiple separate channels in the exterior window frame, and one of said channels ~~being~~ is adapted to receive a frame carrying a screen and/or an insulating window pane.

13. (amended US National filing) A window construction as defined in ~~any one of~~ claims 4-11 5, wherein at least the sill has an outwardly and downwardly sloped surface to drain moisture to the exterior of the window frame.

14. (amended US National filing) The method of constructing a window comprising the steps of,

a) building an exterior frame from at least four formed integral frame corners of synthetic material and at least four ~~extruded~~ lineal rails joined between the frame corners to define the exterior shape of the exterior frame outer edges and the shape of the edges of an interior opening surrounded by the frame, whereby the rails provide the header, sill, and jambs of the window frame;

b) ~~forming~~ molding the corners and extruding the lineal extrusion pieces from compatible synthetic materials and ~~having~~ including integral main frame flanges extending outward thereof for attachment of the assembled window into a window aperture, and

c) forming on the corners and on the lineal ~~extrusion pieces~~ rails at least one frame channel extending about the interior opening to receive and support a window pane.

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15. (amended US National filing) The method of claim 14, comprising the additional steps of,

d) forming joint sections comprising male splines fittings and shrouds of predetermined irregular cross-section on the corners, and

e) forming the lineal pieces rails by extrusion so as to have essentially matching internal cross-sections to receive the male splines and overlapping shrouds of said formed corners, and

f) joining the male spline fittings and shrouds into the matching internal cross-sections of the lineal rails to form rigid water-tight joints.

16. (amended US National filing) The method of claim 14, comprising the additional steps of,

g) in step (c) forming at least one frame channel in the lineal rails and in the corners, which channels are aligned to receives the edges of a sash construction,

h) forming a sash construction including at least one set of four sash extrusions rails and at least four integrally formed sash corners,

i) joining the sash lineal extrusions rails and sash corners to define at least one sash frame dimensioned to fit within the channel, whereby the lineal sash extrusion pieces rails and formed sash corners define the exterior shape of the sash frame outer edges to conform to the frame channel, and also define the shape of the edges of an interior opening surrounded by the frame,

j) mounting a the sash in the respective-frame channel.

17. (amended US National filing)) The method defined in ~~any of~~ claims 14-16, wherein the formed corners and the lineal extrusions rails are formed of a vinyl material.

18. (amended US National filing) The method defined in ~~any of~~ claims 14-16, welding compatible mating profiles of joint sections to form rigid water-tight joints.

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19. (amended US National filing) A An integrally formed corner section for a window framework, comprising

a central body having diverging end sections arranged at a predetermined angle to each other,

said end sections ~~including have protruding spline fittings~~ male splines extending from said end sections and aligned at a predetermined angle to each other and having a predetermined irregular cross-section which will fit closely within the ends of lineal rails ~~rail-parts~~ of the framework to establish rigid finished water-tight corners of the framework.

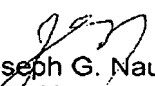
20. (amended US National filing) A formed window corner section as defined in claim 19, wherein

said ~~spline fittings are~~ male splines are provided with of predetermined irregular cross-section which match openings at the ends of lineal ~~rail-parts~~ rails having essentially complementary internal cross-section to receive said male splines of said formed corners and form a rigid water-tight joint.

Remarks

The claims have been amended in view of the International Search Report and the references cited therein.

Respectfully submitted,


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22 January 2004
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